



MICHIGAN

To: Honorable Members of the Senate Restructure Reform, and Reinvent Committee

From: Charles Owens, State Director

Date: March 9, 2011

RE: Senate Bill 165 – Fair and Open Competition in Bidding

We are writing to you to ask for your support of Senate Bill 165 that would prohibit union-only project labor agreements and allow all contractors, regardless of union or non-union affiliation, to have equal access to competitively bid for any and all public construction project contracts.

NFIB represents more than 10,000 small businesses in the state of Michigan and we establish our policy position on issues by a survey-ballot process of our membership. We have asked our members for their position on the issue of "project labor agreements" and they have made it clear that they support legislation to end this practice:

Should Michigan prohibit Project Labor Agreements?

Yes - 77.2 %

No - 12.3 %

Undecided - 10.5 %

Project Labor Agreements are discriminatory to many small non-union companies, which are shut out of the bidding process. When non-union contractors – who make up the vast majority of construction firms – are prohibited from bidding on projects funded with public dollars, taxpayers are forced to pay inflated costs due to the limitations on open bidding. This is unwise stewardship of the tax dollars entrusted to government by the citizens.

Again we ask you to support SB 165.

Thank you for your support of small business.